

**Budget & External Affairs Division**  
**Weekly Report for**  
**Week of December 27, 1999 to December 31, 1999**

**Accomplishments:**

**External Affairs/Congressional:**

Dave Evans briefed four staffers of appropriations member who were as yet unfamiliar with OAR programs. On December 20<sup>th</sup> he met with Adam Brink, staffer for Rep. Kolbe (R-AZ), Sean McGraw, staffer for Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA), Sean Dalton, staffer for Rep. Charlie Taylor (R-NC), and on December 21 he met with Karen Buttaro, staffer for Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH). All visits went well.

The redesign of the OAR pop-up display has been finished. The new layout has been designed to illustrate our areas of research focus i.e. Climate, Atmosphere and Air Quality, and Ocean and Coastal Resources. Its first moment of public exposure will be at the OAR budget conference the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Worked on Mary Anne's Presentation for the Budget and Administrative Conference. Produced overheads and Power Point slides.

Finalized list for Conference name tags. Created database to be used for their construction.

**Budget Formulation/Planning:**

'01 OMB Request: Updated OAR table spreading "final" OMB passback levels (before add-backs).

'01 Congressional Request: Got consulting services exhibit done; submitted base, change, & other narratives; and developed & submitted OAR object class chart (4-digit) to OFA (object class & change narratives will require updates to reflect new budget add-backs).

OAR Bgt./Admin. Conf.: Contacted panel members regarding handouts, bio's, & slides; confirmed Corporate Bodies panel; and worked on my overview & presentation slides.

### **Management/Policy/Program Analyses & Plans**

'00 OAR Operating Plan: Incorporated NOAA comments, '00 Approp., & mgt. issues (e.g., Boulder Rent) and confirmed w Team reps changes needed to milestones due to '00 Approp. (very few), and circulated plan to OAR management for final review.

### **Special Projects**

Budget Analyst Vacancy: Helped shape it for release (posted for 12/22 - 1/26).

### **Public Affairs:**

#### **LAST WEEK'S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE**

(12-22) Booth Newspapers, a chain in Michigan, did a piece on the lack of *diporeia*, a tiny shrimp-like organism that provides food for many fish species. Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (Ann Arbor, MI) biologists suspect that the decline is linked to the appearance of zebra mussels in the Great Lakes.

#### **THIS WEEK'S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE**

(12-28) CBS News is sending a crew to the Great Lakes Environmental Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI next week to do a piece on the decline of a tiny shrimp-like organism normally found in the bottom mud of lakes. GLERL scientists discovered in 1997 that these organisms, which provide food for a variety of fish species, were absent from southern Lake Michigan. They suspect the disappearance is linked to the introduction of zebra mussels.

(1-1) Dian Gaffen of the Air Resources Laboratory, Silver Spring, will appear on CNN at 7:30 p.m. to discuss heat as part of a climate/weather wrap-up and look ahead.

### **Issues Worked On/Ongoing:**

#### **External Affairs/Congressional:**

We are still in the process of updating Research in Your State and the ERL One-Pagers in preparation for the release of the President's Budget and subsequent rush of Hill Briefings on our new initiatives.

In association with the Office of Scientific Support and NOAA/OFA downtown, we are completing the documentation and supporting material for our new initiatives for FY 2001 in preparation for the release of the President's Budget to Congress February 5<sup>th</sup>. We received some

encouraging last-minute increases for Climate Observations and Services from OMB after consultation between OMB and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

This week (Jan 12<sup>th</sup>) we will be conducting the OAR Budget Conference in Rosslyn, VA with attendance by representatives from NOAA headquarters budget office and our labs and programs around the country.

Researched airport exhibit display space at the Baltimore Washington International Airport. Space is available for free and display requests and proposals are currently being developed. Space is also available at Dulles International airport.

### **Budget Formulation/Planning:**

'00 OAR Operating Plan: Incorporate any OAR Mgt. comments & submit plan to NOAA.

'01 Cgr.: Revise OAR narratives & exhibits to reflect final budget numbers.

Capital Improvements: Distribute to OAR info. on 10/26-28 CIP Conference & OFA allocations.

NOAA Budget Structure Task Force: Represent OAR--NOAA's Cgr. report & revised structure.

### **Upcoming Items:**

#### **External Affairs/Congressional:**

Continuing the effort to keep new staffers and Congressmen informed on OAR activities, Dave Evans will meet with Carol McGuire, Staffer to Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), Craig Felner, staffer for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Nadine Berg and Lucy Hand, staffers for Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY).

Eddie Bernard will be coming to visit next week, and will be meeting with various hill staffers to provide updates on the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. Scheduled are John Rayfield, professional staffer on the House Resources Committee, Warren Weinstein, staffer for Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA), and Margaret Cummisky, Staffer for Sen. Daniel K. Inoué (D-HI).

The NOAA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary kick-off will take place this Wednesday, January 12 at 2 p.m. EST. Dr. Baker will be conducting the ceremonies

from the meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Long Beach, CA, with satellite events taking place simultaneously at NOAA locations around the country, including Boulder, Seattle, and Silver Spring.

### **Budget Formulation/Planning:**

12/??: Scott Gudes review of OAR '00 Operating Plan with Dave Evans.

Budget/Admin. Conference: Work w 2 panels & Mary on final preparations.

'01 OAR Operating Plan: Develop call from Louisa in December for '01 milestones & out-years.

### **Public Affairs**

#### **UPCOMING PRESS RELEASES**

(January) The Air Resources Laboratory in Silver Spring, MD will begin a series of flights to test the air around Fort Lauderdale, FL for mercury. This is a joint effort with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of the Environment.

(Late January) *Aquarius*, the world's only underwater habitat, will begin its 2000 season with a mission by the JASON educational project Feb. 28-March 10.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** Discovery On-Line, a web-based science show, is doing a segment January 12 on invasive species. A Sea Grant researcher working in the Chesapeake Bay may appear.

**JASON/AQUARIUS:** The JASON Project will be the first mission of *Aquarius*' 2000 season Feb 28-March 10. The JASON Project is an educational project that takes young aquanauts to various places. This year's project compares extreme situations comparing life aboard a spacecraft with life aboard an underwater habitat.

**MILLENNIUM STUFF:** *Newsweek* is doing an end-of-the-millennium issue and is including a graphics created by the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory showing temperature change and precipitation for the period of 1950-2050

**HEAT AND HUMIDITY:** Environmental Science and Technology magazine is doing a piece on the projected increases in the Heat Index study conducted by the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ. The piece is slated for spring publication.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Bob Reiss is a writer working on a book for Hyperion Publishers (part of the Disney group) about climate change research.

**LIVE FROM THE STORM** Set for broadcast March 9 and April 13, 2000, this PBS program will give viewers a look at tornadoes and hurricanes. Aimed primarily at students, the program will include segments with NWS, NESDIS, and OAR staff.

### **UPCOMING COVERAGE**

**NO HURRICANES, PLEASE:** A National Geographic writer wants to fly during one of the non-hurricane research missions conducted by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL, for a piece on new technologies.

**SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN:** A SA writer wants to do a major piece on hurricane research for the magazine's Expedition series which focuses on scientific research. The writer and a camera person have requested to fly aboard one of the planes during a hurricane.